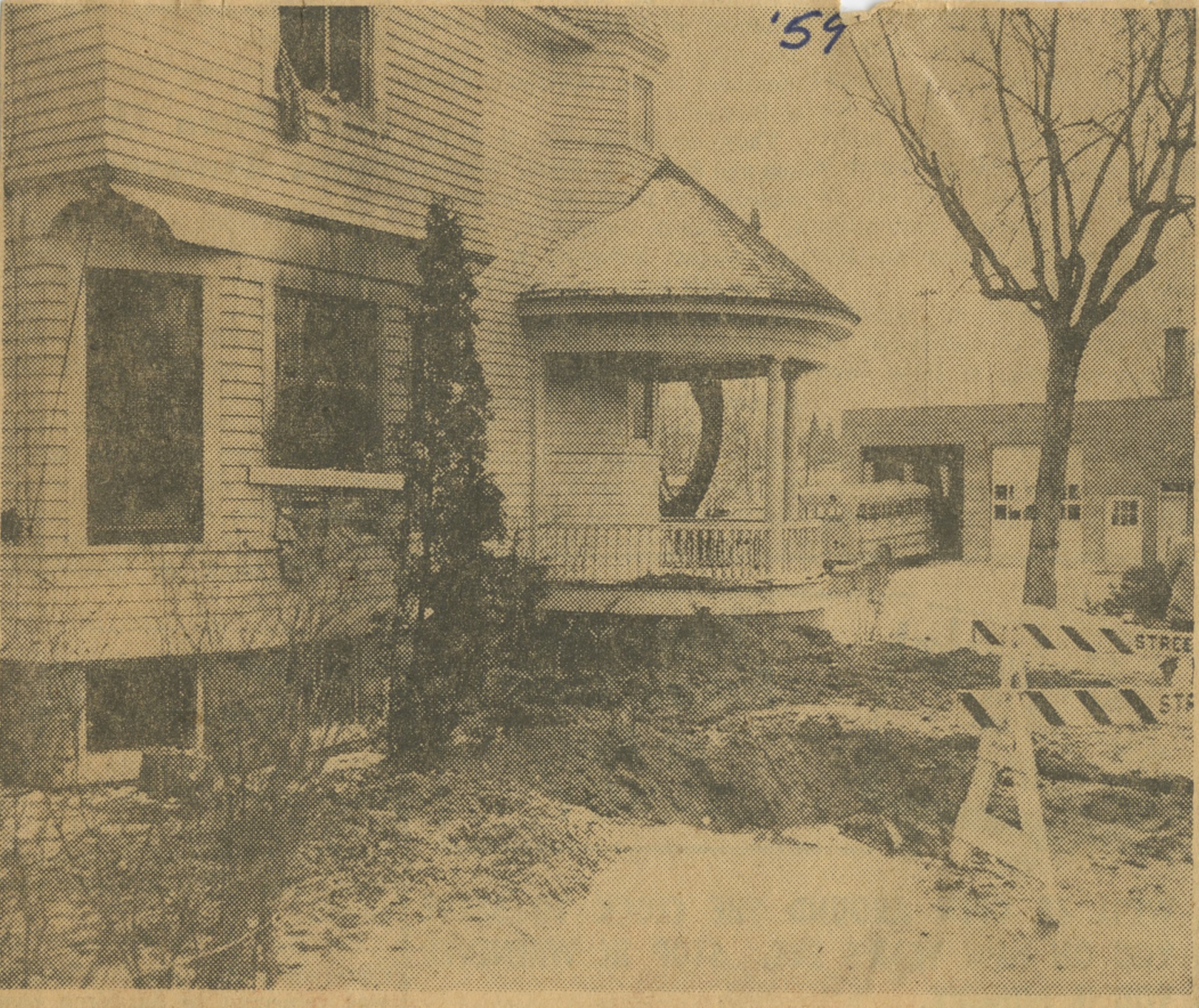

WHERE IT STARTED—A buried gasoline tank on the west side of the George W. Schmidt residence at Mishicot is believed to have supplied fuel for a flash fire that trapped Schmidt, causing his death, and gutting the interior of the home Monday noon. Heavy rains and melting snow filtered into the rusted tank and forced some of the gasoline in the tank through pipes and into the basement. The gasoline spread over the water in the basement and a spark from a refrigerator motor is thought to have touched off the flash fire. Wednesday the tank was dug out and examined, smashed and buried in its original hole in the foreground. The gasoline had been used years ago for illumination and cooking. (Photo by staff photographer)